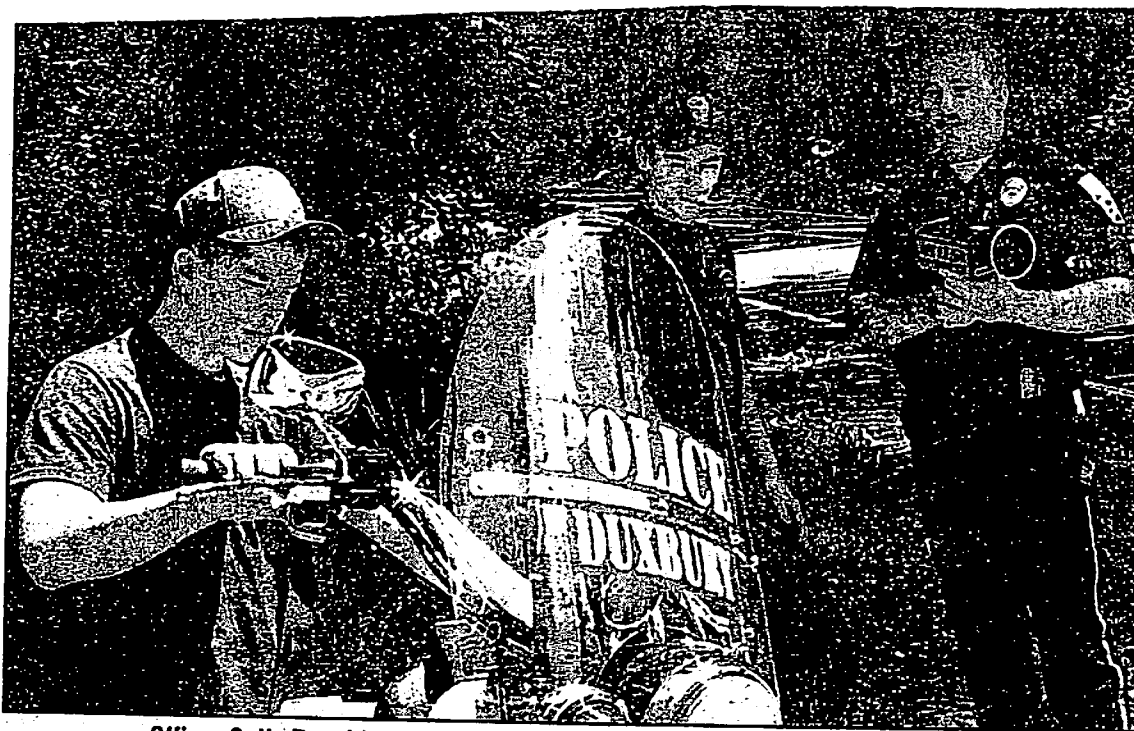


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Officer Cully Rossi instructs new recruits in Duxbury's Junior Police Academy

Duxbury Youths Take to the Streets for Junior Police Academy

By MORAG MACLACHLAN

Pat Doherty raises the radar gun and points it into the oncoming traffic. He signals to an officer, who then flags the car down. After getting the driver's information, Mark DeLuca Jr. helps write out a warning.

Instead of police officers pulling over and warning this driver, a 12 and 14 year old have enforced the speed limit law. DeLuca and Doherty are two participants in the first Duxbury Junior Police Academy.

This two-week Junior Police

Academy program exposes children to a mini version of the real academy's 22-week course. Participants will learn all about the court system and gun safety and even engage in a physical fitness test.

Police Chief Mark DeLuca, father of one of the participants, helped officers Rossi, Tougas, and Tom Johnson coordinate the program. There are seven participants in this first session of the academy.

The program began July 10 with a tour of the Duxbury headquarters. Sergeant Chubb

showed the seven boys the computer system and they learned the procedure for pulling a vehicle over. During their first day, each boy was given an official academy shirt and hat to wear throughout the program.

The second day, the boys took a field-trip to Plymouth District Court. They met the judge and learned the differences between civil, district, supreme, and probate court.

The third day focused on motor vehicle citation and the

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Pat Doherty enforces the speed limit on Church Street by using the radar gun.

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booking process. The boys were brought into dispatch and wrote out citations.

"I like being able to learn how the department works," said participant Chris Jeffcote. "The other day we learned the procedure for pulling someone over. It was really interesting."

The boys participated in a physical fitness test on the fourth day of the junior academy. Sergeant John Roger from the Plymouth Police Department took the boys to Duxbury High School for the test that included bench pressing, sit ups, push ups, an agility test, and a mile run.

Later that day, Officers Parks and Rossi showed the boys how to use a radar gun. The group pulled over a handful of cars for speeding violations and helped the officers write out warnings.

Friday the academy participants were given a run-down of the special department units. They witnessed a canine search and had the opportunity to wear the bite suit and have the dogs find them.

Officer Tougas wore the bite suit when he went to the police academy and said it was not fun. However his experience was not discouraging the boys.

"I am going to wear the bite suit," said Deluca.

On Monday, the boys took a field trip to the Boston Police Headquarters. There the group will be able to see the difference between local and citywide departments.

Gun safety was Tuesday's topic and human safety was Wednesday's. The academy group will participate in a CPR course in which the boys will become certified in this basic life saving procedure.

The group's final field trip will take place on Thursday when they are given a tour of the House of Corrections in Plymouth. According to DARE officer Roy Lyons, two inmates will speak to the boys during



Jeff Lugas bench presses as part of the physical fitness test in the Junior Police Academy.

their visit.

Friday is the final day of the program and participants will write a paper summarizing what they learned during the two-week session and highlight their likes and dislikes of the program.

The boys will have a graduation ceremony and either the town manager or a selectman will present each boy with a certificate.

So far the junior academy seems to be a success, and the boys are learning some interesting facts.

"We learned that not return-

ing a movie rental to Blockbuster is a crime," said 14-year-old academy participant Pat Doherty.

The program is not only beneficial to the boys involved, but the officers as well.

"The boys get to know us and we get to know them," said Officer Tougas. "We develop a friendship."

According to Officer Johnson, the Duxbury Department plans to host another academy session at the end of August.